

REMARKS/ARGUMENTS

Claims 143-185 are pending. Applicant has amended all the independent claims and added claims 179-185.

Applicant would like to thank the Examiner for his consideration during the telephone interview of January 9, 2003. During that interview, applicant's representative explained the invention as claimed by new claim 179 is a method in a source appliance for sending data to a destination appliance. The source appliance receives a notification from the destination appliance that includes an indication of the source data types that the destination appliance supports. When the source appliance receives, from a remote device other than the destination appliance, a request to send data to the destination appliance, it generates a header for the data that includes an indication of the source data type of the data. The source appliance then sends the header and the data to the destination appliance so that destination appliance can use the source data type to identify routines for converting the data to a destination data type for rendering.

Applicant's representative also pointed out Ranger describes a client computer, web server computer, and data source computer. Regardless of how these computers are correlated to applicant's source appliance, destination appliance, and remote device, the steps involved in exchanging information do not read on the claimed invention. For example, in Ranger, no computer sends a notification indicating source data types that it supports, and no computer directs another computer to send data to a third computer.

The Examiner has rejected claims 143-178 under 35 U.S.C. § 103(a) as being unpatentable over Ranger in view of Chang. Applicant respectfully traverses this rejection. As explained below in detail, it is apparent that the Examiner does not fully understand the teachings of Ranger.

Ranger describes a technique for storing information using an information model at a web server. The web server collects the information with incompatible formats

from many different data sources and stores the collected information using the information model (Ranger, Fig. 3). Upon receiving a request for information from a user at a client computer, the web server gathers information that matches the request from one or more data sources and stores the information locally (to the web server) in accordance with the information model. The web server then provides the information to the client computer in a visually consistent way.

To fully analyze the Examiner's position, it is important to make clear the Examiner's position regarding what aspects of Ranger corresponds to applicant's claimed elements. Once this correspondence is made clear, applicant will demonstrate several of the Examiner's assertions regarding Ranger's teachings or suggestions are incorrect.

It is the Examiner's position that Ranger's web server corresponds to the claimed "destination appliance" and that Ranger's Class parameter corresponds to the claimed "source data type." The Examiner states:

Ranger teaches data types for a destinations [sic] appliance, col. 5, lines 34-42.

(Office Action, September 13, 2002, p. 2.) The cited portion of Ranger describes a request that is sent from a client computer to the web server. The request identifies the web server (e.g., www.server.com) and a Class, a Seed, and a Paradigm parameter. The Class parameter specifies the type of information being requested (e.g., employee). The Seed parameter identifies one or more instances of the type of information (e.g., social security number of employee). The Paradigm parameter specifies how the information is to be presented to the client computer (e.g., personnel view). Presumably, the Examiner believes that the Ranger's web server is the "destination appliance" and that the Class parameter is a "source data type."

The Examiner further makes this correspondence clear by stating:

Ranger teaches pushing data to a destination appliance as discovery response since the response is not from a destination appliance, col. 5, lines 9-17.

(Id.) The cited portion of Ranger describes that the web server (i.e., the destination appliance) receives the discovery response from the different data sources (i.e., not destination appliances).

Given this correspondence, it is clear that Ranger neither teaches nor suggests several aspects of the claimed invention. Moreover, these deficiencies of Ranger are not cured by Chang.

The claims recite "receiving via the network a notification that the destination appliance is connected to the network, the notification indicating source data types that the destination appliance can render to a resource of the destination appliance," or similar language. Ranger neither teaches nor suggests such a notification. First, there is nothing in Ranger that suggests a notification is sent indicating that the web server (i.e., the destination appliance) is connected to a network. Second, there is nothing in Ranger that suggests any notification is sent indicating the Class parameters (i.e., source data types) that the web server (i.e., the destination appliance) can render.

The claims also recite "receiving a request other than from the destination appliance to send data to the destination appliance," or similar language. Ranger describes two types of requests: (1) a request sent from a client computer to the web server and (2) a request sent from the web server to the different data sources. As to the first request, it is not a request to send data to the Ranger's web server (i.e., the destination appliance). Rather, it is a request sent by the client computer to send data from the web server to the client computer. As to the second request, since this claim language makes it clear that the request is not received from the destination appliance, the request received by Ranger's different data sources cannot correspond because it is sent from Ranger's web server (i.e., the destination appliance).

The Examiner also states that:

Ranger teaches a data header with address and data type code to be sent to a destination, col. 6, lines 11-16.

(Id.) The cited portion of Ranger states:

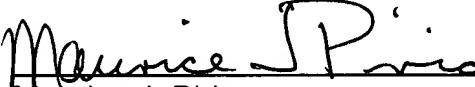
According to one embodiment, the data structures for framework 300 are implemented within a relational database. Each data type in the framework 300 corresponds to a table in the relational database, each instance of a data type is stored as a row or "entry" in a table corresponding to the type, and the fields of each data type correspond to columns in the corresponding table.

(Ranger, 6:10-16.) This cited portion describes part of the information model that is stored at Ranger's web server. Applicant respectfully requests the Examiner to explain what in this cited portion would teach "a data header with address" and would teach that such a data header is "sent to a destination."

Based upon the above amendments and remarks, applicant respectfully requests reconsideration of this application and its early allowance.

Respectfully submitted,
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Appendix
Marked-Up Version to Show Changes Made

In the Claims:

143. (Amended) A method in a ~~computer system~~ source appliance for sending data via a network to a destination appliance, the method comprising:

receiving via the network a notification from the destination appliance that the destination appliance is connected to the network, the notification indicating source data types that the destination appliance can render to a resource of the destination appliance, the destination appliance having a network address;

receiving a request other than from the destination appliance to send data to the destination appliance;

generating a header for the data to be sent to the destination appliance, the header including the network address of the destination appliance and an indication of one of the source data types of the data to be sent; and

sending via the network the generated header along with the data to the destination appliance so that the destination appliance can use the source data type of the header to identify one or more routines for converting the data from the source data type of the header to a destination data type for rendering the converted data to a resource of the destination appliance.

151. (Amended) A method in a destination appliance for receiving data sent via a network, the method comprising:

sending via the network a notification that the destination appliance is connected to the network, the notification indicating source data types that the destination appliance can render to a resource of the destination appliance;

receiving via the network from a source appliance who received the sent notification a header along with data, the header including an indication of one of the source data types as data type of the data, the header and data being received without the destination appliance requesting the data;

identifying one or more routines for converting the data from the source data type of the header to a destination data type;

executing the identified conversion routines to convert the data from the source data type to the destination data type; and

rendering the converted data to the resource of the destination appliance.

156. (Amended) A method for sending data via a network from a source appliance to a destination appliance, the method comprising:

receiving a notification indicating source data types that the destination appliance can render to a resource of the destination appliance;

receiving at the source appliance a request other than from the destination appliance to send data to the destination appliance; and

when the current data type of the data is not one of the source data types,

identifying an intermediate appliance that can convert the data from its current data type to one of the source data types;

generating a header for sending the data to the intermediate appliance, the header including an identification of the destination appliance and an indication of the current data type of the data; and

sending the generated header along with the data to the intermediate appliance so that the intermediate appliance can use the current data type of the header to identify one or more routines for converting the data from the current data type to a source data type and forwarding the data in the source data type to the destination appliance.

163. (Amended) A source appliance for sending data via a network to a destination appliance, comprising:

means for providing a network address of the destination appliance and an indication of a source data type that the destination appliance can render to a resource of the destination appliance;

means for receiving a request from a device other than from the destination appliance to send data to the destination appliance;

means for generating a header for the data to be sent to the destination appliance, the header including the network address of the destination appliance and an indication of the source data type of the data to be sent; and

means for sending via the network the generated header along with the data to the destination appliance.

174. (Amended) A computer-readable medium for controlling an appliance to send data via a network to a destination appliance, by a method comprising:

receiving a notification that the destination appliance is connected to the network and a notification of one or more source data types that the destination appliance can render to a resource of the destination appliance;

receiving a request from a device other than from the destination appliance to send data to the destination appliance; and

sending the data along with a header to the destination appliance, the header including an indication of a source data type of the data so that the destination appliance can use the source data type of the header to convert the data from the source data type of the header to a destination data type for rendering the converted data to the resource of the destination appliance.